



September 2008

Sutter/Yuba/Nevada County News

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Sutter/Yuba/Nevada County FSA Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Websites

www.fsa.usda.gov
www.fsa.usda.gov/ca

Sutter/Yuba/Nevada County Committee

Tim Inderbitzen,
Chairperson
Stephen Waltz,
Vice-Chairperson
Michael Chesini,
Member
Gary Spangler,
Member
Debra Tarke,
Member
Kulwant Johl,
Advisor

Nevada County Committee

Darlene Moberg,
Member

County Executive Director

Joel Twitchell

Farm Loan Manager

Ehab El Liessy

County Office Staff

Kathy Bowman, **CPT**
Lynette Filter, **PT**
Cheryl Geyer, **FLO**
Margarita Gutierrez, **PT**
Jatinder Kullar, **FLO**
Lori McVey, **PT**
Amandeep Sandhu, **PT**
Janet Silva, **PT**
Angela Walker, **PT**
Karl Warmuth, **PT**
Amanda Richardson, **FLOT**

2008 DCP Signup Continues

Producers have until September 30, 2008 to sign up for the 2008 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Producers can fill out their 2008 DCP contract at any USDA Farm Service Agency County Office. Sign-up can also be completed online. You can choose payment options, assign crop shares and sign and submit contracts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) computes DCP payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. For 2008, eligible producers may request to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm.



Final direct payments will be issued after October 1, 2008. Counter-cyclical payments vary depending on market prices, and are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price (which takes into account the direct payment rate, market price and loan rate).

For more information, please contact your local Farm Service Agency office for an appointment.

NAP Coverage – Plan for 2009

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except live-stock, for which CAT is not available.

NOTE: The application deadline date for 2009 NAP coverage has been extended to December 1, 2008 for those crops whose insurance deadlines were prior to December 1, 2008.

This does not change the date insurance attaches, so it is in your best interest to obtain coverage as early as possible to be protected during October and November.

Producers who have coverage on 2008 NAP crops will continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2009, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with 2008 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

County Committee Elections

The Farm Service Agency is currently preparing a slate of candidates to be placed on the county committee election ballot. Each year, an election is held in a different LAA to replace the committee member whose three-year term is expiring. In counties with three LAAs, one seat is up for election. In combined counties in some years, two seats may be up for election. The following are candidate eligibility requirements for becoming a COC member.

Candidate Eligibility

- To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria below: Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate
- Not have been:

--Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
--Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
--Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

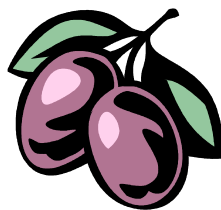
Buy-In Waiver for Supplemental Disaster Assistance

Producers can establish 2008 eligibility for the new disaster assistance programs by paying a fee as required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act).

Ordinarily producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs would need crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage on all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Act was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have insurance coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible. However, the 2008 Act authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for the new disaster assistance programs.

The buy-in fee is due no later than September 16, 2008, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the 2008 Act. Payment of the applicable fees will allow the producer to be eligible for financial assistance under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and other disaster assistance programs. Those who miss this opportunity will **not** be eligible for 2008 disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does **not** provide the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP.



USDA

Natural Resources Conservation Service(NRCS) Announces Program Sign-Up

Conservation cost share applications for the popular **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** in Yuba and Sutter Counties are being accepted for funding consideration in fiscal year 2009 from now through October 31, 2008, in the NRCS office, 1511-B Butte House Road in Yuba City. EQIP is a voluntary program for farmers and ranchers who wish to address natural resource concerns. It promotes agricultural production with methods that protect or improve environmental quality. Funded contracts may include a broad spectrum of natural resource enhancements including advanced irrigation systems and improved irrigation water management, nutrient and pest management, dairy nutrient and manure management, grazing land management, riparian buffers and wildlife habitat, wetland protection, forest management, and more. The program, providing financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers for natural resource improvement, received a record \$53,959,920 in funding in California for 2008.

The 2008 Farm Bill, passed on May 22, 2008, included several conservation programs administered by NRCS and USDA's Farm Service Agency. Many of the details and procedures for Farm Bill programs will continue to be outlined in coming months as the program rules, written in Washington, D.C., become available for public comment. However, it is expected that a 50 percent cost share may be available for most conservation practices. Beginning farmers or ranchers, having operated a farm or ranch for less than ten consecutive years, and limited resource producers and may be eligible for higher cost share.

Office Updates

- Acreage reports are required annually for DCP, NAP and SURE Program
- LFP is "Triggered" by the drought monitor and could occur after the September 16th deadline. Make sure your grazing crops are covered or you will be ineligible.
- If you have not updated your farm records yet, an appointment **MUST** be scheduled before you will receive any payments. Remember, bring any new APN numbers, deeds, and lease agreements.

September	Interest Rates
Farm Operating Loan	3.875%
Farm Ownership-Direct	5.125%
Emergency	3.750%

Holiday Closures

October 13-Columbus Day

November 11-Veterans Day

November 27-Thanksgiving Day

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$949,000. Emergency loans are always direct loans for farmers who may have suffered physical or production losses in disaster areas designated by a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and loans for socially disadvantaged applicants are also available through FSA.

For detail information loan eligibility or the different available loan programs, just contact the county office staff for an appointment with a farm loan officer.

Payment Limitations

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation are reviewed on an annual basis.

It is the producer's responsibility to report changes in the farming operation that may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The following limitations apply to Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments for the 2008 contract year. For all covered commodities: \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments.

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation.

The Conservation Reserve Program annual limit is \$50,000 per person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members. These entities should also identify every payment under more than one entity.

Adjusted Gross Income - Effective through 2008, an individual or entity shall **not** be eligible for certain program benefits during a crop, program or fiscal year if both of the following apply.

The three-year average adjusted gross income for the individual or entity exceeds \$2.5 million; and

Less than 75 percent of the average AGI is derived from farming, ranching or forestry operations.

Conservation Funding-Continuous CRP Available

USDA has indicated there will not be general signups scheduled for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 2008. The budget has no available funding for CRP general signups, and instead advocates enrollment in either CREP or Continuous CRP.

Environmentally sensitive acreage qualifying for the state / federal jointly-funded Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Continuous CRP will be eligible for annual rental payments and cost-share of up to 50 percent on approved practices. These targeted programs will remain funded, and continue to provide heightened environmental benefits on select areas.

Preventing Fraud

The Farm Service Agency supports the Risk Management Agency in the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse of the Federal Crop Insurance Program. FSA has been, and will continue to, assist RMA and insurance providers by monitoring crop conditions throughout the growing season. FSA will continue to refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse directly to RMA.

Producers can report suspected cases to the county office staff, the RMA office, or the USDA, Office of the Inspector General, PO Box 23399, Washington, DC 20026-3399.

Dates to Remember		Acronyms & Programs "Quick Guide" 5 New Disaster Programs are:	
September 16	20008 Disaster Program Eligibility "Buy-In" due	SURE	Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments
September 30	2008 DCP Sign Up deadline 2009 NAP Applications due for Grazing, Honey and crops that closed 8/1 or 9/1 2009 NAP Applications due for Fruit/Nut crops and Many Other crops. 2009 NAP for Apples due	TAP	Tree Assistance Program
December 1		ELAP	Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees & Farm-raised Fish
December 15		LFP	Livestock Forage Disaster Program
January 31, 2009		LIP	Livestock Indemnity Payments

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